



The Lord of the Rings

Author: J. R. R. Tolkien
Genre: Drama and Literature
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RRP: Various

Someone once wrote: the English-speaking world is divided into those who have read The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit, and those who want to.

The term 'Modern Classic' is almost certainly over-used these days when talking about novels, yet there *is* some fire under all that smoke. In polls and votes of the most popular books, a handful of novels do always find themselves in the top ten, and though they all undoubtedly deserve their place (the whole world can't be wrong), I personally believe that the greatest of them all is this, Tolkien's one thousand plus page novel about a great war in a mythical world. An Oxford professor, he wrote *The Lord of the Rings* as a sequel to his children's story, *The Hobbit*; but though they are set with the same backdrop and share many characters, this follow-up is a far darker beast than its predecessor.

So, to the nitty-gritty... Originally split into six books divided into three volumes, the plot revolves around a handful of courageous heroes who overcome great adversity to save the peoples of 'Middle-Earth' a fictional continent not unlike Europe. It was written during and after World War II, and sees all the free peoples of the world unite against Sauron, an evil dictator who many have likened to Adolf Hitler. Interestingly, one of the author's motives for writing the book was to introduce the modern reader to some of the oldest stories and legends ever written in our language, written before England as a country came into existence. A specialist in Anglo-Saxon Literature, he alludes to many ancient texts during his narrative (that would have otherwise been lost) and packages them for a new age. From a lighter perspective, I have to report that THIS BOOK IS COOL!!! It has elves and dwarves (Tolkien's spelling) and trolls and wizards and battles and flying monsters and talking trees. It's full and excitement and wonder in equal measure, and has in my opinion the best twist-at-the-end I've ever read in a novel (and is completely different from the (very boring) ending in the film version).

Ultimately, there is no way to do justice to such an amazing story in ten pages, let alone one. It is one of the crown Jewels of modern literature, deservedly earning a place as one of the most popular and best-selling books of the last century and becoming the archetype of an entire genre of Fantasy books in the process, as well as earning literally millions of loyal fans. In my humble and subjective opinion, this is the greatest classic of them all. The End.

10 sausages out of 10

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